

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN OC-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CCO-00 /012 R

66615

DRAFTED BY A/OC-AF: RLLOCHMILLER:ABM

APPROVED BY A/OC - WENAEHER

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R 212003Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUTAGN/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 5426

AMEMBASSY NAIROBP

UNCLAS STATE 249980

FOR RCO

FOL REPEAT LUANDA 1592 SENT ACTION SECSTATE LISBON

INFO SECDEF JCS CSAF MAC SCOTT AFB OCT 17

QTE

UNCLAS LUANDA 1592

SECSTATE FOR AID FOREIGN DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR

LISBON FOR MAC CONTROLLER SMOTHERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, EAID, AO

SUBJ: ANGOLAN AIRLIFT OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS

REF: A. USDAO LISBON TO MAC 161050Z OCT 75; B. MAC TO SECSTATE
162240Z OCT 75

1. FOR LISBON: PLEASE REPEAT REFTEL A TO ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

2. REFTEL A WHICH DID NOT INFO WASHINGTON AGENCIES REPORTED
OBSERVATIONS OF MAC CONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR SMOTHERS DURING
RECENT TRIP

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ONAIRLIFT FLIGHT. FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE KEYED

TO SMOTHERS' POINTS:

(1) RECOMMENDS AIR TO GROUND RADIO CONTACT. WHILE HIGHLY DESIRABLE, WE CANNOT CONCUR, AND ARE ADDRESSING THIS ISSUE SEPTEL.

(2) APPRECIATE SMOTHER'S EFFORTS IN ATTEMPTING PERSUADE TAP TO PROVIDE GROUND SUPPORT VEHICLE HERE. MEANTIME TIA REP IS SEARCHING FOR CHEAP LEASE OR PURCHASE HERE BECAUSE TIME/NEED IS CRITICAL.

(3) ALSO APPRECIATE SMOTHERS EFFORTS WITH RESPECT DETERIORATING GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT. WE UNDERSTAND D TAP HAS NOT EVEN BROUGHT GROUND EQUIPMENT READY FOR AIRLIFT FROM NOVA LISBOA TO LUANDA. LAST AIR CONDITIONING UNIT BROKEN, TAP OFFICIALS HERE STILL STRUGGLING TO GET RELEASE OF GROUND EQUIPMENT WHICH HAS BEEN HELD IN CUSTOMS IN LUANDA FOR MONTHS.

(4) TAP OFFICIAL WHO WAS BROUGHT TO LUANDA AT REQUEST OF HIGH COMMISSIONER BECAUSE OF HIS OUTSTANDING WORK IN NOVA LISBOA HAS BECOME ENMESHED IN OTHER TAP OPERATIONS AND IS NOT REORGANIZING AND MAKING EFFECTIVE PAX PROCESSING OPERATIONS. TO DATE, TAP CONTINUES TO HAVE NO PERSONNEL DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN REFUGEE OPERATIONS.

(5) SMOTHERS CORRECT, BUT NO SOLUTION YET FOUND TO PROBLEMS POSED BY USE OF REFUGEES AS THEIR OWN BAGGAGE HANDLERS. PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT IS INSISTENCE BY PAX THAT THEIR BAGGAGE ACCOMPANYING AND THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF STRICT ADHERENCE TO 66 POUND WEIGHT LIMIT. ONLY FEASIBLE SOLUTION IS TAP OR GOP PERIODIC PROVISION OF CARGO AIRCRAFT TO ABSORB EXCESS BAGGAGE, BUT THIS HAS HAD ONLY MINIMUM ATTENTION TO DATE.

(6) AIRPORT SECURITY, AS EXPLAINED TO SMOTHERS, HAS NOT BEEN A PROBLEM EXCEPT FOR SOME MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT OUR REFUSAL TO CARRY PORTUGUESE MILITARY OR DESERTERS. AIRPORT AND CITY ARE CALM, THERE HAS BEEN NO LOCAL HOSTILITY TOWARDS AIRLIFT OR THOSE PARTICIPATING IN AIRLIFT, AND NO COMBAT OPERATIONS NEARBY. IF SECURITY EVEN LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT DEVELOP INTO A PROBLEM, WE WILL ADVISE.

(7) APPRECIATE SMOTHERS EFFORTS TO REMIND GOP OFFICIALS OUR CONTINUING NEED FOR EFFECTIVE INTERPRETER ON U.S. FLIGHTS.

3. REFTEL B IS MAC RESPONSE TO REFTEL A. COMMENTS FOLLOWING ARE KEYED TO MAC PARAS:

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(4) WE ARE ADDRESSING SEPTEL. EQUIPMENT IS NOT REPEAT NOT THE PROBLEM. THERE IS NO NEED FOR SMOTHERS TO "DRAW UP NECESSARY CONTRACT PROCEDURES" FOR ANY REASON THAT WE CAN SEE HERE.

(5) AMCONSUL AND AID TEAM HAVE BEEN ASSISTING WITH TRANSPORTATION. BUT VEHICLE AVAILABILITY IS SEVERE PROBLEM EXCEPT FOR PURCHASE NEW VEHICLES.

(6) MAC UNDERSTANDING IS CORRECT WITH RESPECT TO PRESENT

SECURITY SITUATION. (SEE LUANDA 1582). WE WILL ADVISE
IMMEDIATELY IF THERE IS ANY DETERIORATION.
KILLORAN

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